



Serial No.: 10/026,063

Applicant: BALLARD

Reply to Non-Final Office Action mailed August 2, 2004

Atty. Ref.: 11836.0727.NPUS00

PA-00118

REMARKS:**REMARKS REGARDING CLAIMS AMENDMENTS:**

The above noted amendments to the claims have been made in order to put this application in condition for allowance. Specifically, Applicants have canceled claims 21-25 and 29-30 without prejudice.



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IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:**Examiner Rejection:**

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and claims 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicants have canceled these claims in this response, without prejudice, in order to put this application in a condition for immediate allowance. Applicants reserve the right to further the prosecution of these claims in a continuation application.

Examiner's Indication of Allowance:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 7-18 and 41-49 are allowable over the art of record. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of the patentability of these claims and respectfully request the Examiner to issue a notice of allowance in the next paper from the Patent Office.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 11836.0727.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle E. Replogle

Patent Attorney

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Tel. 713.787.1535

Date: 10-6-04

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